

O'Keefe Speech Nov. 14, 1936

My fellow citizens:

I want to ask your pardon for not appearing outside on the platform but my physical condition, caused by my recent illness, necessitates my speaking to you from the interior of this automobile.

On next Tuesday it is your duty to go to the polls and nominate your choice for Mayor for the next two years. The paramount consideration in making your selection should be whether or not that candidate is honest. It is your duty to examine the records of the candidates and vote for the best out of the five. In other words, before voting for a candidate for Mayor next Tuesday, you should ask yourself this question: "Is he honest?" If he is, you should vote for him.

Mr. McVann is telling you that he is honest but that Billy Regan is dishonest. Mr. Regan says that he is honest but that McVann is a doublecrosser. These two lawyers are the ones who selected your Mayor two years ago on that dark night on Hog Hill. Billy Regan says that he did not get his out of the Hog Hill deal, and therefore you should not vote for Mr. McVann. Mr. McVann says Regan is a liar and that he did not tell the truth while testifying under oath in the McNeil case. Mr. Regan comes back and tells you that he is the victim, besides your city, of that Hog Hill conspiracy. For almost two weeks these two lawyers have been telling you that one is better than the other. They must know

My fellow citizens:

I want to ask your pardon for not appearing earlier on this platform but my physical condition, caused by my recent illness, necessitates my speaking to you from the interior of this

On next Tuesday it is your duty to go to the polls and nominate your choice for Mayor for the next two years. The paramount consideration in making your selection should be whether or not that candidate is honest. It is your duty to examine the records of the candidates and vote for the best one at that time. In doing so, before voting for a candidate for Mayor next Tuesday, you should ask yourself this question: "Is he honest?" If he is, you should vote for him.

Mr. McVern is telling you that he is honest but that Billy Hegan is dishonest. Mr. Hegan says that he is honest but that McVern is a dishonest. These two lawyers are the ones who selected your Mayor two years ago on that dark night on Hog Hill. Billy Hegan says that he did not get his out of the Hog Hill deal, and therefore you should not vote for Mr. McVern. Mr. McVern says Hegan is a liar and that he did not tell the truth while testifying under oath in the Kibbel case. Mr. Hegan comes back and tells you that he is the victim, besides your city, of that Hog Hill conspiracy. For almost two weeks these two lawyers have been telling you that one is better than the other. They must know

each other very well since they were so friendly two years ago as to enter into a conspiracy against your city's interest. Being lawyers, both knew that they violated the law of the state in doing what they did that night in order to sew up the election. Were they honest in this action that night? Are they honest now when each calls the other a liar and a doublecrosser because they could not agree on the division of the spoils? They got by two years ago on Hog Hill when there were ~~not~~ no voters around. Are they going to get by this year at the polls? I know they wouldn't be able to fool you this year. The election this year is ~~not going~~ not going to be decided on Hog Hill or at the Hawthorne Hotel. It is going to be decided at the polls next Tuesday.

As your councillor from Ward 3 I have been opposing Mayor McVann's extravagant administration.

If I am elected ~~xxxx~~ Mayor, I promise that the price of electricity to the consumers is reduced and that the Electric Light Plant, which is in a run-down condition, is rehabilitated; ~~express~~ to restore the efficiency of the Engineer's Department; to bend my every effort to see that the deficit of the J. B. Thomas Hospital is materially reduced; to ~~fix~~ abolish every unnecessary job or position created by the present mayor for the purpose of paying political debts; not to interfere with the ~~selection of teachers by the~~ *election of teachers by* School Committee but to cooperate ~~with~~ *teachers* with the members so that the best qualified may be elected; to do my best to see that taxes are reduced and relief given to the homeowners of Peabody. Further, I shall do my best to give you

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...as your councillor from Ward 3 I have been opposing Mayor
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...If I am elected again Mayor, I promise that the price of
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...Thomas Hospital is materially reduced; to materially abolish every
...unnecessary job or position created by the present mayor for the
...purpose of paying political debts; not to interfere with the
...action of the Board of Education and the Board of Public Works
...with the members so that the best qualified may be elected; to
...do my best to see that taxes are reduced and relief given to the
...homeowners of the city. Further, I shall do my best to give you

an honest and efficient administration.

Mr. McVann said here tonight that it was too bad I was sick but he wished they had put something into me instead of taking something out ^{of me} while I was in the Hospital. What Mr. McVann intended to convey to you was this, that it was too bad that I ever came out of that Hospital alive because he is afraid of what is going to happen next Tuesday.

Joseph B. O'Keefe

in regard to the...
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Joseph B. ...